

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00
/067 W

-----025181 171319Z /53

P R 171307Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6846
INFO USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 04884

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, FRG
SUBJECT: NATO PATROL HYDROFOIL MISSILE (NATO PHM)

REFERENCE: STATE 66442

1. IN THE ABSENCE OF BOTH GENERALS BRANDT AND ALTENBURG OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY'S OFFICE OF POLITICAL/MILITARY AFFAIRS, WE LEFT WITH COLONELS HANSEN AND SCHMIDT-PETRI OF THAT OFFICE A NON-PAPER CONTAINING THE TEXT (WITH NON-SUBSTANTIVE EDITORIAL CHANGES) OF POINTS A THROUGH F OF PARA THREE OF REFTEL.

2. COLONEL SCHMIDT-PETRI EMPHASIZED THAT THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO PRODUCE THE GERMAN S-143A PATROL BOAT, AND THAT, IN HIS VIEW, US-FRG COOPERATION IN PHM PRODUCTION WAS VIRTUALLY OUT OF THE QUESTION. HE SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH THE BUNDESTAG WOULD DISCUSS THE S-143A ON MARCH 17, IT WAS NOT A QUESTION OF THE BUNDESTAG'S DECIDING FOR OR AGAINST PRODUCTION OF THIS GERMAN BOAT (AS SUGGESTED IN PARA 2, E OF REFTEL). RATHER, THE BUNDESTAG WOULD HEAR THE RESULTS OF A GERMAN CONSULTING FIRM'S REPORT ON THE SOUNDNESS OF THE S-143A'S HULL DESIGN. SINCE THE REPORT WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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FAVORABLE AND INDICATED THAT PROBLEMS WITH THE HULL WERE NOT MAJOR, SCHMIDT-PETRI FELT THAT, BEYOND ANY REASONABLE DOUBT, THE BUNDESTAG WOULD SIMPLY CONFIRM THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT'S PREVIOUS DECISION TO PRODUCE THE S-143A.

3. NEVERTHELESS, HANSEN AND SCHMIDT-PETRI INDICATED

THAT THEY WOULD IMMEDIATELY BRING THE INFORMATION WE
HAD PROVIDED THEM TO THE ATTENTION OF MINISTER APEL
AND OTHER SENIOR DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIALS.
MEEHAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MISSILES, ARMS PRODUCTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN04884
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780119-0284
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780357/aaaabvnk.tel
Line Count: 66
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 58a117c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 66442
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3296689
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATO PATROL HYDROFOIL MISSILE (NATO PHM)
TAGS: MPOL, GE, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/58a117c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014